(b) what is the ratio as at present;

(c) whether there is any shortfall, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed by Government to rectify the balance ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) : The Central Government has not prescribed any reservation for minorities in the Central Para Military Forces. However, special efforts are made to ensure that eligible candidates from minority communities are made aware of the employment opportunities and recruitments in these forces.

Fencing on Border of J&K

†*373. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for fencing the 256 Kilometer long international border of Jammu and Kashmir to check the terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the estimated amount likely to be incurred on this task; and

(d) the time by when this work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) : The Government have recently taken a decision for adopting a multi-modal approach for erecting an obstacle system on the International Border in Jammu sector to check infiltration and smuggling of weapons/explosives etc.

The project is expected to be completed in about one and a half year's time, at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 23.01 crores.

Investment under IRDP

*374. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what was the average level of investment fixed by the Central Government under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) for the period from 1st April to 31st December, 1998; and

(b) what factors are taken into consideration by the Central Government while fixing the average level of investments under IRDP ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.